A.—In regard to the Bill to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Question No. 87 at the meeting held on 4th September 1928. The draft of the Village Panchayat Bill is under scrutiny. The Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act with the criticisms received thereon from local bodies and individuals consulted is being placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee at a meeting to be held on the 15th October.

Municipal Councils

Introduction of amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act.

* 496 *Q.*—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Government propose to introduce an amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act;

(*b*) whether a draft amending Bill is ready;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to abolish nominations altogether; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to reserve seats to Mussalmans, Indian Christians and depressed classes in elections?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A draft Bill has been prepared and referred to municipal councils for an expression of their opinions by the 1st December 1928. The provisions of the Bill will be scrutinized in the light of the remarks received and after the completion of the scrutiny steps will be taken to introduce the Bill.

(*c*) The Government propose to abolish nominations reserving however power to appoint to any municipal council such number of persons as they think fit, not exceeding three to represent the European or Anglo-Indian communities or officers of Government. Persons so appointed will be supernumerary councillors irrespective of and in addition to the strength fixed for the Council.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know why officers of Government are necessary in the municipal councils?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I thought the experience gained by such officials in the district would be useful for the proper administration of local bodies."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether they would not be unduly influencing the other members?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"That is asking for information."

Publication of the preliminary list of voters for Saidapet municipality.

* 497 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorial from certain voters of the Saidapet municipality, complaining about the Chairman's action in the matter of the publication of the preliminary list of voters for ward IV and seeking Government's intervention in the matter;

[10th October 1928

(*b*) whether it is a fact that ward IV is now represented by the Chairman ;

(*c*) whether the Government have taken or propose to take any action on the memorial ; and

(*d*) whether the Government contemplate to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act at an early date ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Government inquired into the allegations made in the memorial referred to and saw no reason to interfere.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether with reference to clause (*a*), the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is aware that the preliminary list of voters was not published as required by sub-section (*c*) of section 3 of the rules for the preparation of electoral rolls ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

Alleged complaints against the Chidambaram Municipal Chairman for not sending notices of meetings.

* 498 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. A. Kumaravelu Pandaram, an Adi-Dravida, was nominated in June 1926 as a Councillor, to the Municipal Council, Chidambaram, in the vacancy caused by Mr. Sahajanandam Swami's failure to attend for three consecutive months the meetings of the Council ;

(*b*) whether the notification issued under section 10 of the District Municipalities Act expressly restricted the period of tenure of office of the said Mr. A. Kumaravelu Pandaram ;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the Chairman of the Chidambaram Municipal Council did not send to Mr. Kumaravelu Pandaram any notice of the meeting fixed for 20th September 1927 ;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that the Chairman to whom representation was made by Mr. Pandaram replied that " his period of councillorship has expired on 14th September 1927 " ;

(*e*) whether the period of councillorship of Mr. Pandaram did actually expire on 14th September 1927 ; and does not extend up to 14th September 1929 ;

(*f*) whether representations have been made to Government by Mr. Pandaram in June 1928 and August 1928 complaining against the action of the Chairman in not sending him notices of meetings since September 1927 ;

(*g*) whether the Government have taken any and, if so, what action thereon ; and

(*h*) whether the seat held by Mr. Pandaram is still vacant or has been filled up ?